PROCLAMATION OF AN ERADICATION PROJECT
REGARDING THE EUROPEAN GRAPEVINE MOTH

Between September 15 and 17, 2010, three European grapevine moths (EGVM), *Lobesia botrana*, were detected in the city of Gilroy, Santa Clara County. Based on the survey data, the known life cycle for EGVM, information from USDA's EGVM Technical Working Group and recommendations provided to me by the Department's Primary State Entomologist, I have determined that an established infestation of EGVM exists.

The EGVM is an exotic insect that is found in Europe, the Mediterranean, southern Russia, Japan, the Middle East and northern and western Africa. It has been recently introduced into South America. In California EGVM has recently been detected in the counties of Fresno, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma. The EGVM primarily feeds on the flowers and fruit of grapes, but is also known to attack plants in several other genera. In addition to physically damaging host flowers and fruit, EGVM infestations promote secondary infections by microbial organisms, most notably *Botrytis*, which can then spread to and ruin all of the grapes in a bunch. This pest presents a major threat to grapes grown within the state. California is the top grape-producing state in the U.S., with total production valued at over $3.9 billion.

As Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), I have decided, based upon the probable economic damage that could be inflicted by an established infestation of the European grapevine moth, that under my statutory authority, it is incumbent on me to address this threat.

My duty to act, and this decision, is based upon authority set forth in Section 3591.24 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 401.5, 403, 407, 408, 5321-5323 and especially 5761-5763 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

This decision to proceed with an eradication program is based upon a realistic evaluation that it may be possible to address the threat posed by EGVM using currently available technology in a manner that is recommended by USDA's EGVM Technical Working Group. Treatment needs and environmental conditions are outlined in the attached work plan. I have determined that these actions are necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4). Emergency actions are exempt from CEQA. Consequently, I have determined that it is not necessary to prepare environmental documents for these emergency actions.

These detections of the EGVM meets the definition of an emergency as a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, property as described in the pest profile as follows:

1. The situation is a sudden, unexpected occurrence, as EGVM was not previously known to occur in Santa Clara County.

2. The situation presents a clear and imminent danger to the grape industry, private residences, and California's economy via direct damage to grapes and the

imposition of quarantine restrictions designed to mitigate the spread of EGVM. Grapes are the number one agricultural plant commodity grown in California with an annual gross production value of $3.9 billion (USDA NASS 2009). Based on its status as a significant grape pest in other parts of the world, permanent establishment of EGVM in California would result in significant production and export issues for grapes.

3. Immediate action is required because the EGVM has multiple generations per year that allows it to build up populations very quickly and it has formidable natural dispersal ability. The control options for EGVM are limited to techniques that can only be used in small areas. Allowing the EGVM infestation to build up and spread will negate the Department's ability to effectively implement mitigation options.

Based upon input from my professional staff, including that of the Primary State Entomologist, and the input of experts familiar with the EGVM, I am ordering either flower and fruit removal or ground applications of an organic pesticide be made to grapevines on non-commercial production properties within a 400-meter radius around the detection sites. Descriptions of the methodologies chosen are contained in the attached work plan. In issuing this decision, I have considered pesticidal and non-pesticidal options. I find that both pesticidal and non-pesticidal options do exist to effectively address the situation with EGVM. Both options will be implemented.

Sensitive Areas

The treatment area has been examined for threatened or endangered species and mitigation measures will be implemented as needed.

Treatment Plan

The proposed project area encompasses those portions of Santa Clara County which fall within approximately a 400 meter area around each property in which EGVM has been detected in the area. Treatments will occur at residential properties, common areas within residential developments, and other non-commercial agricultural production properties. Commercial agricultural production properties shall be treated by the owner/grower as discussed in the work plan. A map of the detection sites with the project boundaries and the proposed work plan are attached. In summary form, the treatment plan consists of the following elements:

1. Delimitation. Delta traps baited with an EGVM pheromone will be placed throughout the project area to delimit the infestation and to monitor post-treatment EGVM populations. Traps are placed at a density of one trap per 25 acres (25 per square mile) in the surrounding 100 square miles (five-mile radius). Additional traps may be added to further delimit the infestation and to determine the efficacy of treatments. These traps will be serviced on a regular schedule for a period equal to three EGVM generations beyond the date of the last EGVM detection.

2. Treatment Options:

a) Flower and Fruit Removal. Properties within 400 meters of a detection site will be treated according to the following protocol. All grape flowers and fruit shall be removed in order to deprive EGVM larvae of a food source. EGVM larvae feed on the flowers and fruit of grapes, not the leaves, and therefore flower and fruit removal eliminates the food source required for completion of their life cycle. Periodic visits by EGVM Project staff may be necessary to verify that the vines remain flowerless and fruitless, and to remove any later developing flowers or fruit.

b) Insecticides. This treatment may be used in lieu of the above treatment. Properties within 400 meters of a detection site will be treated according to the following protocol. An approved insecticide shall be applied in order to kill EGVM eggs and/or larvae. Treatments are repeated at intervals as specified on the label, unless significant rainfall justifies re-treatment. The recommended available active ingredient is *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk). The Btk shall be applied at least three consecutive times during the first half of each generation, as determined by adult trap catches and life-cycle projections. Any resident whose property is to be treated shall be notified in accordance with Food and Agricultural Code Sections 5779 and 5401-5404.

3. Public Information. Public information concerning the EGVM project will consist of press releases to the public and direct notification of project developments to concerned local and state political representatives and authorities. Press releases are prepared by the Department's information officer and the county agricultural commissioner, in close coordination with the project leader responsible for treatment. Either the county agricultural commissioner or the public information officer then serves as the primary contact to the media. Any resident whose property will be treated will be notified prior to the treatment.

If you have specific questions related to this program, please contact the CDFA Pest Hotline at (800) 491-1899.